Oxfordshire
Guardian
Abingdon edition

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What's on in OXFORDSHIRE
See the new section inside

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Thursday, May 8 - Wednesday, May 14, 2014 | Advertising/Newsdesk: 01235 511700 | www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

HOMES PLANS RAISE FEARS

PLANES and helicopters filled the skies above Abingdon last Sunday for the town's air and county show.

It was the 15th year the show has been held, and raised money for the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance.

Go to page 5 for the full story

Consultation ends on old tree nursery site

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

A CONSULTATION period for plans to build eight 'emergency housing' apartments on a former tree nursery in Abingdon has ended.

Vale of White Horse District Council wants the houses to be built on the former site of the Harcourt Way Tree Surgery, next to the River Stert.

Eight apartments would be built to provide homes for families who have been unable to find alternative accommodation.

However the plans have proved to be controversial, with a number of people writing to the council as part of the consultation to voice their concerns.

Mervyn Chadwick, of Bowyer Road, wrote: "I feel the proposed development will surely destroy a natural haven for local wildlife in the area with the removal of adult trees.

"It is also well known that with this type of proposed development, the type of tenants that may live there may bring anti-social behaviour.

"I feel there are far better locations within the Abingdon area."

Pauline Sykes, of Boxhill Walk, wrote: "I'm very concerned about the encroachment on the green corridor and consequent ill-effects on wildlife that this development threatens.

"There is also the danger of flooding that building so close to the river raises, which is a serious consideration."

Provision of social housing on this site was one of the conditions of Cranbourne Holdings being granted permission for the Old Gaol development.

A previous application for 14 flats made in 2009 was rejected at the time as the housing that would have been provided was targeted towards individuals rather than families.

Angela Lawrence, who represents the Northcourt ward on Abingdon Town Council and Vale of White Horse District Council, largely supports the plans.

She said: "I'm in favour of the development with the conditions that it doesn't harm the environment and it doesn't cause any anti-social problems.

"I do understand people's fears and feelings about the natural habitat, but for me it's very important that we provide emergency accommodation.

"Flooding has been addressed by the Environment Agency, and that's another good reason for keeping the planting, as the trees help flood alleviation."

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Care programme hopes to recruit

A PROGRAMME which provides care for adults in Oxfordshire is undertaking a recruitment drive to take its number of carers past the 150 mark.

The Oxfordshire Shared Lives programme sees adults looked after in a number of ways, including placing them in a family home setting where carers can support them to live independently.

Care is offered to disabled adults, older people with dementia, people with mental health problems, care leavers and disabled children in transition into adulthood.

It is run by Oxfordshire County Council, and there are currently 141 carers who have signed up.

But senior practitioner Ali Gackowski is hoping to break through the 150 mark following special information drop-in events during May across the county.

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

She said: "Oxfordshire Shared Lives is an innovative way of providing care and has been putting people together with carers in this way for 25 years.

"There are adults in Oxfordshire who need care and support, but they either do not want or need high levels of residential care.

"In many cases, a member of their family or a close friend provides what is needed, but sometimes this is not possible.

"We are hoping to get our 150th Shared Lives carer recruit from our public information events and I look forward to meeting people interested in this field at them."

Support on offer is flexible and can range from going out for coffee or to the cinema, offering overnight stays or even having someone live with them as part of their family.

Carers are paid between £300 and £400 a week per person they support, and the scheme offers training and professional support.

Ms Gackowski added: "One of the best ways of providing people with the kind of care they require is to offer them the chance to stay in a Shared Lives carer's home.

"The service gives vulnerable or disabled adults this opportunity, enabling them to live as independently as possible by sharing in the carer's family life."

The first drop-in event is this afternoon from 3.30pm to 6.30pm at the Oxford Options Health and Wellbeing Centre, on Awgar Stone Road on Oxford.

On Tuesday, a session will be held at Charlton Day Centre in Wantage from 3.30pm, and another will be held on May 21 at Bicester Health and Wellbeing Centre from 4.30pm.

For more information about the programme or the sessions, go to oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives.

French guests make Wantage twinning visit

WANTAGE mayor Fiona Roper and Grove Parish Council chairman Frank Parnell have welcomed visitors from France for a week's exchange visit.

A total of 24 guests from Wantage and Grove's twin town of Mably arrived on April 27, and stayed with local host families while enjoying a programme of trips and visits.

They were given a guided tour of Wantage, visited Christ Church College in Oxford and were shown round the Diamond Project at Harwell as part of their week.

Their trip came to a close with a demonstration by the Rose Hips Belly Dancers, before taking part in some traditional English barn dancing.

Alison Davidge, chairman of the French Twinning Group, said: "We always enjoy having our French visitors to stay, and this time we managed to pack in a pretty varied programme.

"It is a good chance for us to try out and practice our French and give our friends a share and taste of some of our typical local English traditions."

Post Office plans Cowley Road move

RESIDENTS are being asked about their views on a proposed new location for an Oxford post office, which would offer additional services and longer opening hours.

The branch on Cowley Road would move further down the street to the current Honest Stationery unit.

A consultation was launched at the beginning of the month to ask customers for comments about the move, and will run until June 12.

Will Russell, Post Office regional network manager for England South, said: "We understand how important having a post office is to residents in Oxford.

"We are confident this new modern post office will meet the needs of the local community and secure services for the future.

"This modernisation is part of a major investment programme, the largest in the history of the Post Office, and marks a commitment to no more branch closure programmes."

It is proposed the move would take place in July, and would open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 6pm, and on Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

To leave a comment, go to postofficeviews.co.uk and quote the branch code: 090137.

In a separate announcement, the Post Office has said their Littlemore branch will close for refurbishment between May 20 and 30.

When it reopens, it will have increased opening hours and more Post Office services available.

Do you have an Oxford story?

Contact the newsdesk at
news@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk
or on 01235 516932

Save TCP show plans to public

A COMMUNITY group who are hoping to keep Temple Cowley Pools (TCP) open have shown their plans to local residents in a public consultation on Saturday.

Save TCP have until October to put together their bid to keep the site open, as well as incorporating the Barns Road Community Centre.

Candidates for the upcoming city council elections were invited to attend the event, with several turning up to voice their support.

Nigel Gibson, from Save TCP, said: "The response was great, we had hundreds of people turn up and have a look at what we've been doing.

"For the most part the public were incredibly supportive, and it was a whole mix of people as well.

"There was a fair number of Blackbird Leys people as well who might think would want the new pool, but they were all saying 'keep Temple Cowley Pools open' because it's a natural place for them to come."

Save TCP have until October to complete their bid, after which it will be considered by the city council alongside other applications from private developers.

Councillor criticises delay in flood plans

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

AN OXFORD politician has criticised the county council for acting too late in putting plans in place to prevent the city from flooding.

Oxfordshire County Council is currently drawing up a flood risk strategy and the cabinet will meet next Tuesday to discuss sustainable drainage plans for new builds.

This will see developers who want to build developments of 10 or more homes have to submit sustainable drainage plans before work can begin.

Otherwise known as sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS), the system works by slowly holding back water with the use of swales and filter drains.

However, Susanna Pressel, ward member for Jericho and Osney on the city and county council, says these types of plans are too late.

Cllr Pressel said: "It is such a pity that this strategy has been so delayed.

"It should have been consulted on two years ago.

"I don't know why it has taken so long, it is absolutely ridiculous, because there have been consequences from the delay."

She added: "With regard to SUDS, I'm not quite sure what the county's role is

"It is the city council that has been pursuing it as far as planning applications are concerned.

"I'm glad the county council has at last started to take an interest as well and I hope money will be wisely spent."

Rodney Rose, deputy leader of the county council, points to the Kingsmere development in Bicester as an example of affective planning and installation of SUDS.

With 100,000 homes needed in the county by 2031, Cllr Rose says the plans will help prevent Oxford's flooding situation from getting worse.

He said: "We're in a position that if this rain fall continues, as it did this winter, we will be getting more problems with flooding.

"The idea of this sustainable drainage set-up is that hopefully we will not at least let this situation get worse."

• *Flooding affected the Osney Mead Allotments, on Botley Road, during the winter*

However, Peter Rawcliffe, of Oxford Flood Alliance, says it will not help to solve bigger flooding problems.

"It will stem the flow so basically it may help areas when there is flash flooding," he said.

"I don't think it will deal with the massive rain fall that we saw in December and January when the Cotswolds was drowned and it all came down to us, but it is very welcome and it is going in the right direction."

Mohammad Afzal, owner of the Nisa convenience store on Abingdon Road, which was affected by the flooding earlier this year, says something has to be done.

"I'm hoping they will do something about it before we get to the situation that we were in last time," he said.

News Bites

More funding

OXON: Anthony Stansfeld, police and crime commissioner (PCC) for Thames Valley, has announced new funding arrangements to help support victims' services.

Before introducing fully commissioned services by April 2015, a grant application fund of £600,000 has been opened to support specialist services.

Part of the PCC's preparations for the Thames Valley is to ensure that in-depth victims' needs assessments are completed by the end of this month.

Laptop stolen

BOARS HILL: A laptop was stolen following a burglary at a house in Old Boars Hill, Oxford, on Monday.

Between 6.45pm and 10pm, offenders gained entry to the property and stole the item.

Anyone with information should contact Det Con Chris Leech on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Get Walking!

OXFORD: Members of the public are being encouraged to take part in the city's last event for Get Walking Week tomorrow.

Tomorrow's event sets off at Bury Knowle Park, Headington, at 10am and is free to attend.

Vicki Galvin, scheme coordinator, said: "Walking is such a wonderful way to get to know your local area and make friends that it hardly even feels like exercise."

Charity cycle raises £790 for Help for Heroes

A DIDCOT landlord will cycle 335 miles in five days next month to raise money for military charity Help for Heroes.

Tom Oytaben, 52, who is the manager at the Broadways pub, in Broadway, Didcot, will ride from Brussels, Belgium, to Paris, France.

The event takes place from June 1-8, with the riders given a five-day limit to complete the route, before they are taken back to London for the grand Hero Ride finale.

Mr Oytaben, who was in the army for 10 years, raised £790 at Sainsbury's in Didcot last Saturday and with the addition of further sponsorship money, he will break the minimum target of £1,200.

The route will follow much of the Western Front and Mr Oytaben said: "The services are dear to my heart.

"I come from an army family and one of my friends that I joined up with is still serving."

• *Tom Oytaben with Help for Heroes mascot Hero the Bear at Sainsbury's in Didcot last weekend (Picture by 6point75)*

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Abingdon enjoys annual air show

THOUSANDS of people were watching the skies over Abingdon on Sunday, as planes and helicopters performed aerial demonstrations during the afternoon.

Two Spitfires, a Bulldog, the Breitling Wingwalkers and many more types of aircraft were part of the showpiece display, taking place from Abingdon Airfield at Dalton Barracks.

And on the ground, there were dozens of static aircraft and car displays, as well as live music, trade stalls and fairground rides for visitors to enjoy.

This was the 15th running of the current incarnation of the air show, which for the past eight years had been raising money for the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust.

It is organised each year by a group of six people, who do so in their spare time in the nine months leading up to the annual show.

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Colin Smith, one of the organising committee, was pleased with how the day went.

He said: "We had a fantastic turnout. We don't know the exact figures, but certainly looking at the car park, it looked like our best ever."

Speaking about why the committee chose the air ambulance to raise money for, Colin added: "Partly because it's an aviation charity, but also because it's a vital asset to the local emergency services.

"It's something that each and every one of us, heaven forbid, could need at any time, anywhere, and in any situation.

"I think, certainly for the foreseeable future, we'll be supporting the air ambulance at future air shows."

• *(Top left) MGs on display, (centre left) A Fieseler Storch, (bottom left) A T33 tank, (top right) A Bulldog takes to the skies, (bottom right) Frankie and the Gambler perform at the show*

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Oxfordshire from their local depots and Josh is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truthis that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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News Bites

Oxford Imps

ST ALDATE'S: Renowned improvised comedy group The Oxford Imps are performing at The Old Museum, St Aldate's, next week.

The Imps will perform in various styles that the audience shout at them to create sketches, games, stories and songs on the spot.

It takes place on Friday, May 16, from 7.15pm to 10.30pm. To book visit oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford.

Driver appeal

COWLEY: Police are appealing for a taxi driver who stopped to help a woman who fell off her bike in Cowley last week to come forward.

At around 3.45pm last Thursday, officers found a 49-year-old woman in Oxford Road, who had come off of her bike.

The victim was taken to hospital with concussion and bruising to her head and body.

Police believe a taxi driver helped the woman prior to the officers arriving, and would like to speak to the driver or anyone who witnessed the incident.

Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Naomi Voysey from Abingdon Roads Policing on 101.

Waitrose set to be given green light

By **Katriona Ormiston**
katriona@taylornewspapers.co.uk

• *An artists impression of how the Waitrose site would look on Botley Road*

PROPOSALS for a new supermarket on Botley Road were expected to be given planning approval last night.

Councillors were due to make a final decision on whether Waitrose can build a 24,500 sq ft store on the former Halfords and MFI site as the Journal went to print last night.

Officers recommended the project for approval despite admitting "the proposals are likely to worsen existing severe traffic congestion along Botley Road".

Up to 160 new jobs and 148 parking spaces could be open next year.

The 1980s former-MFI building, which is currently home to a temporary Cancer Research UK shop, would be bulldozed as part of the plans.

Residents both supported and opposed the plans.

Earl Street resident Caroline Webber said: "I don't think we need a big supermarket there and we have major traffic problems as it is on Botley Road.

"But something has got to go there so we are stuck between a rock and a hard place.

"I would sooner not see more traffic on Botley Road but it is a horrid building at the moment.

"I'd rather see some affordable housing for young people but that's probably not going to happen."

Vale of White Horse District Council opposed the plans saying it could threaten Botley's West Way shopping centre.

Plans for a £100m revamp of West Way has been submitted to VOWHDC by developers Doric Properties.

They include a supermarket, cinema, hotel, gym, and shops.

A VOWHDC statement said: "Botley is the town centre that is most likely to be affected and the applicant has not considered the potential for the proposed store to be located within the proposed new West Way development which is a more sustainable location."

Doric also opposed the plans saying the site was the wrong place for a supermarket.

Drop off scam post to help stop con artists

'SCAMNESTY' boxes have appeared across Oxfordshire this week, as part of a county council campaign to disrupt rogue traders in the area.

Residents are being asked to drop any scam mail they receive into the boxes, which will be collected and shared with Trading Standards teams nationwide.

It is hoped the campaign will highlight the tactics used by con artists, and raise awareness of various scams.

Richard Webb, manager of Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards Service, said: "We want to highlight tactics used by unscrupulous rogue traders.

"One of the ways to crack down on scammers attempting to fleece money out of people through the post is to give residents a place where they can dump unwanted letters.

"We will collect all the letters posted in the 'scamnesty' boxes and, by sharing our results with those from other parts of the country, we will get a much clearer picture of the scale of the problem and how to tackle it."

Within the city, boxes have been places in the Central, Blackbird Leys, Cowley, Headington and Summertown libraries, Oxford's Citizens Advice Bureau, and also at the Horspath Driftway health and wellbeing centre.

Richmond Witney Retirement Village

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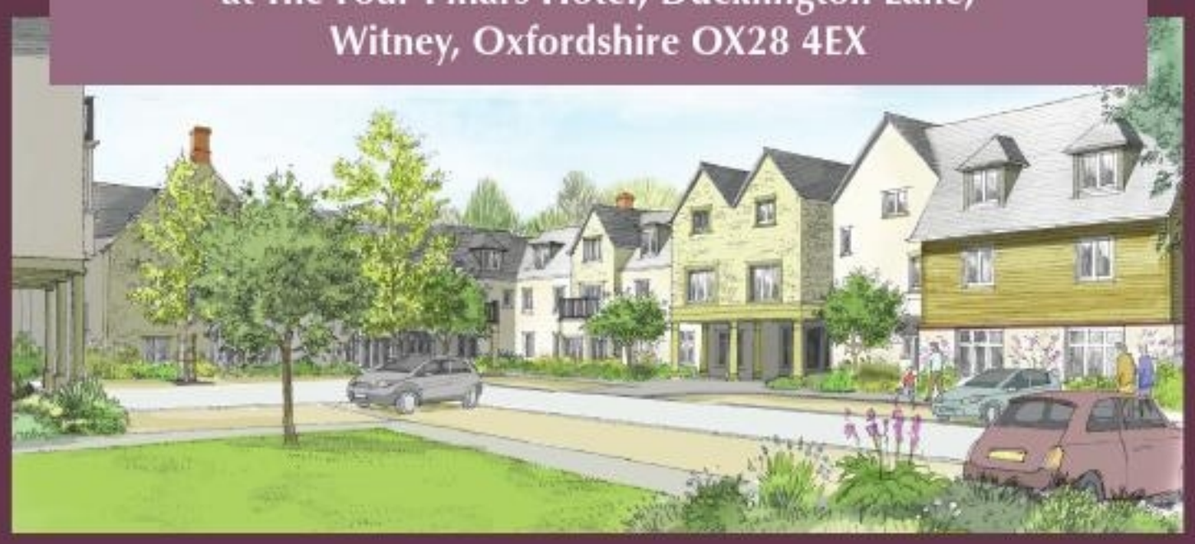

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Oxford celebrates for May Morning

THOUSANDS of people gathered in Oxford last Thursday for the annual May Morning celebrations.

Revellers made their way to Magdalen College at 6am to hear the choir sing the Hymnus Eucharisticus, before watching Morris dancers perform at various sites across the city.

In Broad Street, Oxford's residents were given the chance to address the public from a soapbox.

And Oxford City Council, Thames Valley Police and South Central Ambulance Service said that the festivities passed without incident, with no reports of people jumping into the River Cherwell from Magdalen Bridge.

Rachel Capell, city events officer at the council, said: "We are pleased with how the event went.

"We have been working hard with out partners to ensure that the event would be safe for everyone to enjoy.

"Our security team did a great job throughout the morning and it was great to see approximately 5,000 people celebrating the start of spring at this unique and traditional event."

Supt Christian Bunt, Oxford local policing area commander, said: "I am pleased to say that there were no problems and no arrests made, and the security operation ran very well.

"I was out on patrol throughout the evening for the night-time celebrations and there was a good atmosphere and everyone appeared to be enjoying the festivities."

Aubrey Bell, South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust's area manager for Oxfordshire, added: "We are delighted that the event passed without major incident.

"From a medical perspective, five people were treated for minor injuries related to the May Morning revelry.

"We are grateful that the public heeded advice not to jump in the river."

Mayor's Column

Axel MacDonald

Mayor of Didcot

Working together to put Didcot first

AS my term finally ends, it has been a real eye opener on what happens in the town and county. There are many who benefit from a range of charities focussed on children, the elderly, families, teenagers, those with challenged vision and much more. One of the most spectacular charities was the medical alert dog charity. Molly is a three and a half year old cocker spaniel who can sense the blood sugar levels in her charge – a family was gifted their quality of life back when Molly was trained to look after their son. They can sleep easily at night now knowing that Molly will wake them up if his sugar levels become dangerously low.

The charities I have supported have also been life changers. The Felix Fund help many soldiers and their families to cope with mental and physical challenges that arise from combat. The Balsam Family Project can make the difference between children returned to their family or kept in care. The love and support provided to families is invaluable and I have enjoyed and been amazed at the care and respect provided to those who just needed a nudge to be shown that they play an important part in our community.

Didcot is growing and hence its community grows too. A new community association has established itself in Great Western Park and it will thrive as the development increases. With each development come public open spaces and leisure facilities but these only serve the community around them. I hope the town has aspirations to have sporting and recreational facilities worthy of a large town.

Didcot still needs much to fill the gaps, a hotel, DIY store, bypass, new roads, minor injuries unit, more cafes and bars, but these will come. We have much already that other towns do not but we still need to strive to make the town, that we are already proud of, a town of destination - the slogan already exists: Didcot First!

News Bites

Vandalism

OXFORD: Police are appealing for information after 14 vehicles were scratched with a stone in the city last month.

The cars were vandalised between 1.30am and 2.30am on April 26 while they were parked in Wythan Street and Norreys Avenue, and it is believed the offender fled towards Abingdon Road.

Anyone with information should call 101.

Castle capers

OXFORD: Visitors to Oxford Castle have been invited to become Victorian prisoners for the day during the May half term.

Prisoners can try out traditional hard labour punishments, such as the treadwheel exercise and the shot drill, as well as learning more about the history of the site.

It is running from May 24 to June 1.

Uni awards

OXFORD: Six departments and units at Oxford University have been recognised with Athena SWAN awards, for their efforts in advancing the careers of women.

The Public Health, Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Oncology, Pathology, Pharmacology, and Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences departments achieved bronze status.

Professor Alastair Buchan, head of the Medical Sciences Division, said: "We are extremely proud of the efforts and contributions of all members of the division to achieve this important milestone."

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MP speaks about tackling exploitation

SLAVERY and exploitation were two of the topics tackled at a roundtable event in the city last Thursday, hosted by Oxford West and Abingdon MP Nicola Blackwood.

Police, social workers and charities spoke about the realities of tackling slavery and exploitation in the community.

The event, held at St Aldate's Parish Centre, was attended by the minister for modern slavery and organised crime Karen Bradley MP, county council leader Ian Hudspeth and Supt Andy Boyd.

It comes almost a year after seven men were found guilty in the Operation Bullfinch trial - a two-year investigation into child sexual exploitation in Oxford.

Ms Blackwood said: "Operation Bullfinch and related cases mean that here in Oxfordshire, we have learnt that crimes involving the exploitation of the most vulnerable must be tackled through victim-centred strategies.

"We know that the only way you will secure convictions against slave masters and organised crime gangs is through innovative joint working between agencies."

Children to make online safety films

By **Jack Johnson**
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

• *Ceci Browning, Ailsa Rhodes and Akshay Mungroo will be making an online safety video*

FARINGDON schoolchildren will make their own short videos as part of a Google initiative to share techniques of how to master the Internet.

Thirty year 8 pupils received a surprise visit from the corporation last Friday and were joined by Wantage and Didcot MP Ed Vaizey to discuss online safety.

Google has teamed up with support service The Parent Zone and youth engagement agency Livity to promote its Well Versed campaign.

The scheme, fronted by YouTube vlogger KickThePJ, will see 13 to 18-year-olds create their own 15-second video on how to stay safe online.

Messages will range from blocking people on social media to using secure passwords.

Naomi Brown, senior youth engagement manager at Livity, said: "Children live and breath the Internet, but it has its good and bad sides."

A majority of the pupils said they used the Internet on a daily basis for homework, talking to friends and playing games.

Ceci Browning, 13, said she uses three social media sites.

"I go on the Internet at least three times a day," she said.

"I have parental settings on my computer and it automatically logs me out at 9pm. My parents try, its good that they limit it."

However, Ceci added she has experienced online bullying.

"One of my friends was saying mean things on Google Plus," she added.

"I blocked her and spoke to her at a party. I didn't want to say something online because it can make things worse."

Ailsa Rhodes, 13, is on seven social media sites, but is careful when it comes to privacy.

She said: "You hear stories about people not having their private settings on. I'm not on Facebook for that reason."

Meanwhile, 13-year-old Akshay Mungroo has his own Origami YouTube channel.

He said: "My Dad thinks I spend too much time on it so I have been banned at the moment."

Busy road to close for resurfacing for 30 weeks

A £4.5MILLION scheme to resurface a busy South Oxfordshire road is set to begin on Monday, the county council have announced.

Major carriageway reconstruction will take place on the A4130 at Bix, near Henley, for a maximum of 30 weeks.

A sink hole that appeared on the road last year will also be investigated and fixed while work is carried out.

David Nimmo Smith, cabinet member for transport, said: "I am pleased that the county council is investing so much money in this road, as it is a route that is well used and highly valued by many people.

"I know that people have been calling for this work to be done for some time, and will see the inconvenience they experience in the short term as being worth it when the road is back at full capacity.

"Signs will be up on site to help drivers, and I would also urge people to check the local transport information on a regular basis."

A range of restrictions on local roads including weight restrictions will be in place.

For more information about the closure, go to oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/a4130-bix-dual-carriageway-major-maintenance.

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News Bites

Charity event

BURFORD: Animal charity Blue Cross is holding a tea party on May 17 to help raise funds for its Shilton Road rehoming centre.

The Blue Cross Paws for Tea party will take place between 11 and 3pm at the centre and donations will go towards the care of homeless cats and dogs.

Demolition

DIDCOT: A date for the demolition of Didcot A's southern cooling towers is still unclear.

RWE npower is discussing the process with its stakeholders, but remain optimistic that the three towers will be demolished this summer.

Kelly Brown, PR manager at RWE npower said: "We are still talking to our stakeholders to ensure that everything is still okay with the date that we chose.

"It will be June or July. It just depends on our stakeholders."

Tournament

MILTON: An annual Down's Syndrome football tournament is taking place at Milton United Football Club, Potash Lane, Milton Heights, this Sunday from 12noon.

Twenty teams are taking part in the tournament.

Vicar is gunged as church raises funds

• *Rev Simon Kirby braves a smile after being gunged (Picture courtesy of Cogges Parish Office)*

IT is not every day that you see a vicar being gunged, but parishioners of St Mary's Cogges in Witney have witnesses it first hand.

Rev Simon Kirby was left covered in green slime after the morning services on April 27, but it was all for a good cause.

St Mary's is planning to expand, with the creation of a new church centre for community events and to allow for more space for a parish that has grown by 30 per cent in the last 12 months.

Rev Kirby said he was willing to be gunged if parishioners raised £500, and that target was far exceeded with £1,034 put towards the project.

"They played a little trick on me," said Rev Kirby.

"They did a trial run with cold water which I wasn't expecting, they love me the parishioners!

"So I expected to get this green slime and ended up with ice cold water and then the slime was different."

However, the church development is set to cost in the region of £600,000.

"We also need to purchase an element of the property, so we will have to do another 650 of these," Rev Kirby joked.

"We're looking at external funding and individuals within the church looking to make commitments to it.

"It will be a long-term project, two to three years, and we have already got a Christmas fair and a summer ball planned for next year as well as various other activities large and small."

St Mary's holds three services on a Sunday morning - at 8am, 9.30am and 11am - with between 250 and 270 people attending.

Rev Kirby added: "Having the hall will allow us to do other community activities during the week and give us more space on Sunday.

"We're in a fortunate position of being a growing church and we need more space for our children's work as well."

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

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MP's Corner

John Howell
MP for Henley

The contribution of foodbanks

I WAS struck by something Frank Field MP, the former Labour Minister, is reported to have said.

"Even if we abolished all the welfare reforms that the Government had done, we would not abolish the need for foodbanks."

It is worth recalling that the use of foodbanks increased tenfold under the last Labour Government and that Germany, Australia, and Canada have seen significant rises in their use.

So it is wrong to target the Government's welfare reforms and seek to blame them. I do not believe that compassion is shown by perpetuating a failed benefits system.

That is not the way out of poverty and it is right to reform the system. The growth of foodbanks is the result of a complex variety of factors.

I value the contribution foodbanks make.

It was this Government after all which freed up JCP to refer people to foodbanks in the first place.

So why are people going to foodbanks?

One of the causes is delays in benefits payments and I am sure that there is more to do in this area.

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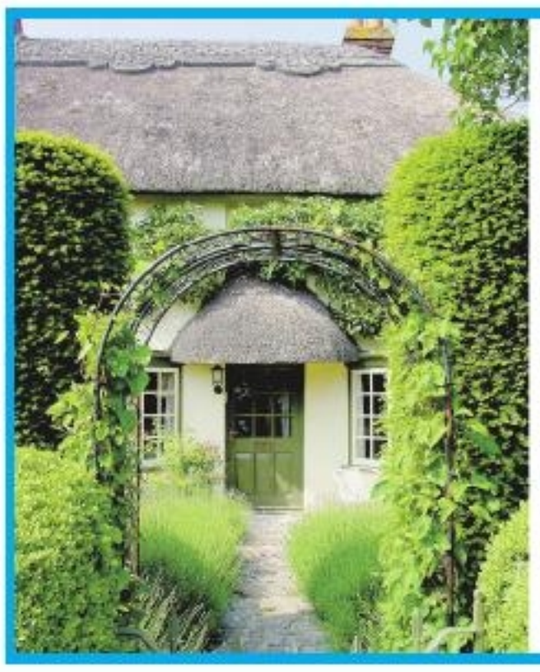

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Girls claim top prize at robotics challenge

GIRLS from an Oxford school proved their engineering skills as they were crowned champions of the Student Robotics Competition 2014.

Nine girls in Years 11, 12 and 13 from Headington School beat off competition from 53 other teams to win the event, held at Newbury Racecourse on April 26 and 27.

The group were one of just two all-girls teams entered in the competition, known to be the largest robotics contests of its kind outside the USA.

Teams had been tasked with building a robot from scratch that was capable of collecting boxes, rotating them and placing them in specified areas.

The Headington School team had been working on the project since October last year, to design, build and programme their robot to complete the various challenges.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Matt Howe, head of ICT at the school, said: "Girls experience a whole range of skills, including coding in Python, soldering, basic carpentry and metalwork.

"Most importantly they are taught to learn through trial and error, and not to fear getting things wrong.

"We actively encourage our girls to push their learning beyond what they are comfortable with, to take risks and try things out, experiment with ideas, get things wrong, evaluate the results and develop better solutions."

Cadets' minibus looks ten years younger

DIDCOT'S cadets will be able to continue attending the town's community events after a helping hand from a local business.

The 2410 (Didcot) Squadron, based at Trenchard Hall, Newlands Avenue, has had its minibus re-liveried by Kingdom Signs who are based on the Southmead Industrial Estate.

It's new look also coincides with the cadet's 10th year of using the minibus.

Flt Lt Cavan Chaney said: "It will give us a new lease of life.

"It's imperative to the cadets to do anything. Without the mini bus we just can't go anywhere."

Dom Martin, owner of Kingdom Signs, said: "Hopefully this will give the van another 10 years of life.

"We try and help everyone and keep businesses open at the same time."

• *Flt Lt Chaney (right) with Dom Martin and the fresh-faced minibus*

News Bites

Help needed

COWLEY: The British Heart Foundation (BHF) shop in Templars Square is looking for volunteers who have a few hours to spare each week.

The shop on Pound Way, Cowley, is in desperate need for people to come forward and help merchandise clothes, work behind the till and dress windows.

For more information, visit bhf.org.uk/volunteer.

Flag flying

ABINGDON: The town's flag was hoisted above The Crown and Thistle last Friday, to re-establish a centuries-old tradition of a flag flying above the building.

It comes after Abingdon residents were asked to vote online for what flag they would like to see used, with the town's standard eventually being selected.

Local MP Nicola Blackwood (pictured) helped to raise the flag.

Oxfordshire Guardian

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Option Two

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Business Bite

World Class networking

FORMER rally champion and TV Presenter, Penny Mallory, will draw on her experience and challenge the audience at the next business networking event Late Breakfast in Chalgrove, to consider what level they are currently performing at, what their potential is, and how they might start thinking and behaving as a world class operator.

Ms Mallory said her talk "will focus on the importance of building and developing a team with one clear aim, a team that combines and compounds individual talents, and ultimately reaches their goal to become world class performers."

The event, at Hampden House in Monument Park, Chalgrove, starts at 9am and runs until 11am on Thursday, May 29.

Unipart claims top global safety award

A BRANCH of Oxford-based company Unipart has won an international safety award.

Unipart Aftermarket Logistics won the British Safety Council's International Safety Award for its outstanding contribution in setting world class approaches to health and safety in the transport, distribution and motor trade sector, with the firm's Cowley site among those evaluated.

It also achieved two "distinctions" and the top rating in the 2014 awards, placing them amongst the best in the world for workplace safety.

The prestigious awards recognise organisations across the world that have demonstrated a proven commitment to outstanding workplace safety and the well-being of its employees.

This year 521 companies from around the world, across a range of sectors, were recognised with only 43 achieving a distinction.

Announcing the results, Lynda Armstrong OBE, chair of Trustees of the British Safety Council, said "Winning the transport, distribution and motor trade sector award is testament to Unipart's determined and structured approach to maintaining the highest standards possible in a challenging and rapidly expanding sector."

Study shows "alarming" gender gap in key IT sector

BOOSTING the number of women working in IT could generate an extra £2.6billion a year for the UK economy, according to a new report commissioned by Nominet, the Oxford-based company best known for running the .uk internet infrastructure.

The report, released to mark International Girls in ICT Day on April 24, also found that women currently make up less than one fifth of the IT workforce and that, based on current trends, the IT gender gap is set to widen slightly over the coming years.

It drew on new research among IT decision makers in UK businesses, which found 76 per cent believe they lack suitably skilled staff in IT. Of these, 58 per cent say this negatively affects on productivity, estimating on average that productivity levels are 33 per cent lower as a result. And 59 per cent agree that their IT team would benefit from having a more gender-balanced workforce, while only seven per cent disagree. Improved communication skills, improved staff morale, and bringing in new ideas were the most frequently cited benefits.

The report found that low female participation in IT education is a key factor in the workforce gender gap. Only a third of ICT A-level students and less than a tenth of Computer Studies A-Level students are female. The imbalance remains at university, with girls accounting for only 19 per cent of students taking computer science degrees.

Nominet's Director of HR Gill Crowther said: "The digital economy is driving economic growth in the UK. Given the extent of the IT skills shortage, we can't afford to only recruit from half the talent pool. It's alarming to think that, if current trends continue, the IT gender gap will get bigger rather than smaller."

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Your complete guide to what you can see and do in Oxfordshire. In print & online

• *The Melodic return to Oxford tomorrow night. See overleaf (Picture by Louis Fry)*

The Melodic are back!

Want even more?
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for the full guide of what to see and do in Oxfordshire

Let's get baking

CELEBRITY baker Paul Hollywood brings his first ever live tour to Oxford's New Theatre tomorrow, for an evening of baking and comedy.

Paul will be demonstrating recipes and revealing the secrets of being a TV chef, as well as inviting four audience members on stage to bake with him.

Steel's comedy

STAND-UP comedian Mark Steel presents his 'In Town' show at Didcot's Cornerstone theatre tomorrow, where he will share his observations of the town with its residents.

The show is based on Mark's BBC Radio 4 series of the same name, which sees him create a stand-up show based on what he finds out about an area. It starts at 8pm.

Baby boogie

PARENTS and toddlers are being invited to Baby Boogie workshops and discos, taking place at the Pegasus Theatre, on Magdalen Road, on Sunday.

Children under five-years-old can learn dance moves at the beginning of the session, and then put their skills into action before enjoying the disco lights and music.

For full details, go to pegasustheatre.org.uk.

Melodic mix of genres

BRIXTON band The Melodic bring their mix of folk, world beat and pop music to Oxford tomorrow evening, for their first ever headline show in the city.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Rudi Schmidt, Huw Williams, Lydia Samuels and John Naldrett are set to return to Freud's, in Walton Street, following a secret performance they staged at the venue in February.

Their debut album 'Effra Parade' was released in March to critical acclaim, and the group are now preparing for the release of their latest single 'Come Outside' on Monday.

"'Come Outside' is a song we struggled to play live for a while, because we recorded it with a fiddle player," said Rudi.

"But we can't take him on tour, and it felt like something was lacking before we found that we could play it with the same energy without the fiddle player and get the same response.

"We kept doing it and eventually we crossed that hurdle, and suddenly we found the energy for the track.

"I don't know whether we made it better or just started believing in it more, but it now brings an energy to the room."

The Melodic spend a lot of time touring worldwide, and are heading off to perform across Europe later this month.

They have also spent a lot of time in America, and are hoping to return there later this year to work on a new album.

"I think we're going to record it around December time," said Rudi. "We're most likely going to do that in the States.

"We have a few songs ready, and we're writing a lot more. We've booked June and July off so we can work on finishing the songs."

Doors open at 7pm. For more information about the band, go to themelodic.com.

• The Melodic return to Oxford tomorrow (Picture by Manfredi Gioacchini)

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Have seen the JLPT or Tiger logo? JLPT is a local fitness company run by Jo Lambourne and Liam Downes. Based in Wantage we offer a different approach to health and fitness. We Train all of our clients out in the fresh air, getting fast results through our fun group bootcamps, personal fitness and life balance programmes as well as nutritional advice and one to one sessions.

On Saturday 21st June come along for a FREE open day event

We are holding an open obstacle training day 10am-2pm

This event is aimed at the general public, people who haven't experienced an outdoor fitness session with us before and want to find a bit more out about it and have a go for themselves. This is a special event for us as we are unveiling our JLPT obstacle course and along with the usual bootcamp fun it is sure to be a special day indeed.

"Come along for what's going to be a great day" – Jo & Liam

"I love all the different things we do" – Clare

"I don't get out of breath anymore" -Shelly

"I now look forward to exercise" – Sharon

"We have found something we can do together" – Phillipa & Gideon

"It's perfect" - Lynn

WANTAGE COMMUNITY RESPONDERS

We are taking the opportunity with this event to raise much needed awareness and funds for the Wantage Community First Responders.
The scheme was set up by South Central Ambulance Service to provide emergency care in the community and currently consist of 11 volunteers who are all trained by the Ambulance service. They are a much needed resource in our local area and we would like to support them and the great work they do.

We suggest that if you wish to attend this event you book your space soon as course time slots are limited and on a first come first serve basis.

For more updates and information you can find us on Facebook JLPT Outdoor Fitness Coaching. We regularly post information on nutrition, tips and exercises. Alternatively you could go to www.ridgewaytigersbootcamp.co.uk and reply to the email stating 'June event' or call Jo & Liam on 07976 008622/07960 618474 where a free personal review is always available.

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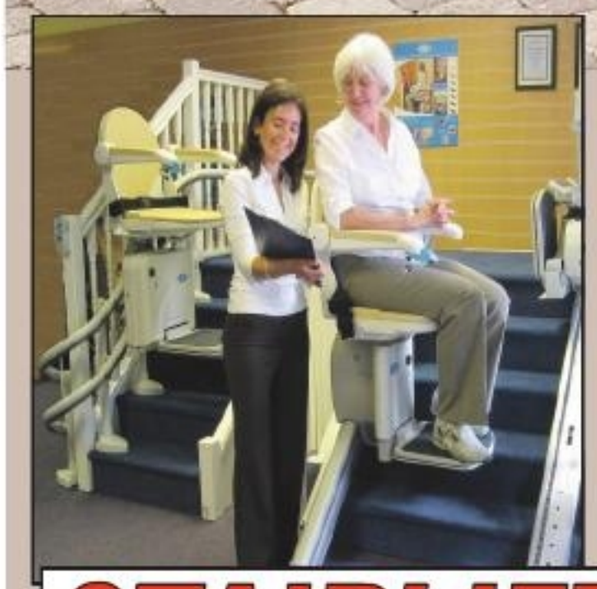

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David Brent

RICKY Gervais performs as his comic creation David Brent at the New Theatre next week, in one of just two shows nationwide.

'Foregone Conclusion' will see David joined on stage by his band, and will perform hits from his back catalogue including 'Free Love Freeway' and 'Slough'.

They take place next Wednesday and Thursday.

Holiday lark

TO mark 100 years since the start of World War One, 'An August Bank Holiday Lark' will be staged at the Oxford Playhouse, on Beaumont Street, from Tuesday.

The gentle drama tells the moving story of the annual Rushbearing Festival in 1914 Lancashire, unaware of the consequences of the looming war.

It runs until May 17.

Mark Thomas

COMEDIAN Mark Thomas returns to the Chipping Norton Theatre this evening for the next instalment of his '100 Acts of Minor Dissent' tour.

Mark has been travelling the country making mischief in various towns and cities, after setting himself the task of committing 100 acts of minor dissent in the space of a year.

'Dead loud' Bottlemen

ALTERNATIVE rock band Catfish and the Bottlemen perform live at Oxford's O2 Academy this Sunday, having released, 'Kathleen', their fourth single in under a year.

The foursome from North Wales burst onto the scene in the summer of last year, after receiving airtime on Radio 1.

By **James Richings**
news@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The praise soon started to follow as the band received rave reviews from industry experts nationwide.

"We have a tendency to just drench everything in reverb, because we want it to sound dead loud!" said Catfish frontman Van McCann.

"'Kathleen' is a song about being completely infatuated with someone, so much so that it literally drives you mad and causes you all kinds of problems.

"You can't stop thinking about them, you can't get anything done, you can't think straight, you just want to be with them all the time.

"Basically, it's about being inexplicably madly in love with someone who's absolutely backward, but completely gets you."

The band are now set to play at this year's Reading and Leeds Festival on the unknown stage. A contrasting difference to 18 months ago, where the band had to played over 150 live shows to hone their live set.

Touring all over the UK this summer will be a huge juxtaposition for the group, who were rehearsing all day every day at a B&B in a Llandudno, North Wales, just 18 months ago.

The owners of the bed and breakfast, who later became fans of Catfish, invited the youngsters in rent free on one condition: that they continue to practise and make music.

They kept to their promise and now they will be travelling to Britain's most notable festivals and arenas throughout the rest of 2013.

Doors open for Sunday's show at 7pm, and tickets will cost £9.50. For more information, go to catfishandthebottlemen.com or o2academyoxford.co.uk.

• Catfish and the Bottlemen perform their new single 'Kathleen' in Oxford on Sunday

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Oxfordshire (The Rifles) Battalion
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What's on in OXFORDSHIRE | LISTINGS

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9 May 2014, 8pm
Wallingford Town Hall
A POTTED HISTORY OF GARDENING
This entertaining talk will look at how British gardening has evolved from its immediate post-glacial roots in the near east, under the influences of climate change and growing communication, and the roles gardens played for the wealthy and ordinary people. Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

10 May 2014 - 31 May 2014, 10am - 5:30pm
Sarah Wiseman Gallery
ARTWEEKS: 3 OXFORDSHIRE ARTISTS
Painting, printmaking & sculpture from Bee Bartlett, Rachel Dossor and Richard Fox as part of Oxfordshire Artweeks Festival
01865 515 123

10 May 2014
Cotswold Wildlife Park
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"Dogs for the Disabled is delighted to be the beneficiary of the Scruffs Dog Show. Bring the family for a fun day out and help raise money for anamazing charity.
Normal Park admission prices apply (Adults £14, infant under three - free, 3-16 - £10, over 65 - £10)."
www.dogsforthedisabled.or

14 May 2014 - 15 Jun 2014, 4am - 7am
City of Oxford College
OPEN EVENT
"City of Oxford College open day

Wednesday 14th May, 4pm- 7pm at the City of Oxford Campus. http://www.cityofoxford.ac.uk/city-of-Oxford-College-contact-detailFor more deatils contact - 01865 550550"
lucy.baker@activatelearning.ac.uk

14 May 2014 - 14 May 2014, 4am - 7am
Blackbird leyes Campus
OPEN EVENT
Saturday 21st June, 10am-2pm http://www.cityofoxford.ac.uk/city-of-Oxford-College-contact-details For more deatils contact - 01865 550550"
lucy.baker@activatelearning.ac.uk

14 May 2014 - 17 May 2014, 7:45pm
The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury
TWELFTH NIGHT
Shakespeare's comedy of love and confusion in the land of Illyria is coming to Banbury, complete with "witty fools" and "foolish wit".
01295 279 002 www.themillartscentre.co.uk

15 May 2014, 9pm - 11pm
The Jericho
URBAN FOLK QUARTET
"Joe Broughton, Paloma Trigás, Tom Chapman and Dan Walsh are The Urban Folk Quartet; Four highly accomplished musicians, a dozen instruments and four voices coming together to craft a knockout show of globally–influenced, electrifying acoustic music that has been taking the international folk scene by storm. Hitting the ground running in 2009, The UFQ's trail has blazed across ten countries, igniting audiences worldwide with their high octane, genre-bending take on folk. 2014 brings further new direction as founding member Frank Moon steps out of touring life, passing the torch to banjo virtuoso, singer and guitarist Dan Walsh for what is set to be the band's most adventurous year so far.
www.theufq.com"
7813346250

16 May 2014
Cornerstone, Didcot
MARK GRIST, ROGUE TEACHER
Internet sensation, Poet laureate of Peterborough, former English teacher and modern day bard.
01235 515 144

16 May 2014, 8pm
Fat Lil's, Witney
FOLK MUSICIAN LISA KNAPP
With support from The August List and Wes Finch. Tickets £8 available from Rapture in Witney / Truck Store Oxford and online www.tunatheday.com

16 May 2014, 6pm - 9pm
Wallingford Museum
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
Experience what it was like in wartime Britain. Bring a torch to this event , which will appeal to adults and children alike.

16 May 2014, 7pm
Oxford Town Hall, St. Aldates
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17 May 2014 - 18 May 2014, 10am - 5pm
The Yoga Room, Witney OX28 1HY
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www.thirdeyeworkshops.com

17 May 2014, 2pm - 4pm
The Beacon (Wantage Civic Hall)
TEA PARTY TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF BROWNIES
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17 May 2014, 9am - 11:59am
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18 May 2014
Cornerstone, Didcot
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www.cornerstone-arts.org

18 May 2014, 10am - 3pm
Waterperry Gardens, Nr Wheatley
CANCER RESEARCH WALK
Make the most of a spring day out and raise money for Cancer Research UK at the same time with our sponsored walk. You can take as long – or as short a time as you want covering the route around the Waterperry estate and gardens.
Jenny Braithwaite 01844 208073.

18 May 2014, 10am - 4pm
North Oxford Lawn Tennis Club, Oxford
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noltc.co.uk

20 May 2014 - 24 May 2014
Oxford Playhouse
'TIS PITY SHE'S A WHORE
This vivid and violent Jacobean tragedy by John Ford shows a brother and sister's passionate descent into hell. Incest, religion and corrupt morality collide in this controversial and gripping production.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

21 May 2014, 8pm
Zelda's Jazz Room at the Comrades Club, Newbury Street, Wantage
HARLEM NIGHTS
"American pianist Jeff Barnhart with the Harlem Knights jazz band - jazz from the 1920s & 30s featuring the music of Fats Waller, Duke Ellington, writer of the Charleston, James P. Johnson. et al. Jeff Barnhart is a superb pianist, vocalist and entertainer.
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Oxford Playhouse
Tuesday 20 - Saturday May 24

24 May 2014 - 1 Jun 2014, 10am - 5:30pm
Waterperry Gardens, Nr Wheatley
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www.waterperrygardens.co.uk 01844 339226

27 May 2014 - 27 May 2014, 11am - 3pm
The North Wall Arts Centre
1001 NIGHTS - TRANSPORT THEATRE & UNICORN ON TOUR
"Shahrazad - a lively young girl torn between her old home in the East and her new life in England, re-tells the stories of her childhood to her new-found friend, who understands not a word she says. Nominated for an Off West End Award - Best Production for Young People.
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01865 319450

27 May 2014, 11am - 12am
The North Wall, Oxford
1001 NIGHTS
"Using the things she finds around her, Shahrazad fashions saucepans into crowns, old pipes into enchanted telescopes and a mop into a magic carpet to transport us to a fantastical and imagined world of kings, viziers, and jinns.
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www.thenorthwall.com/01865 319450

27 May 2014
Oxford Playhouse
JOSH WIDDICOMBE
Josh Widdicombe's brand new show, Incidentally.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

28 May 2014
Cornerstone, Didcot
DIDCOT FILM CLUB: GIGI
01235 515 144. www.cornerstone-arts.org

28 May 2014
Oxford Playhouse
DYLAN THOMAS: RETURN JOURNEY
This remarkable and mesmerising performance from Bob Kingdom is directed by Welsh icon of stage and screen, Anthony Hopkins. The show blends Thomas' stories and poems to conjure the electrifying presence of the man himself.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

28 May 2014, 8:30pm
The Lamb Inn, Mill Street, Wantage
DAVE MOORWOOD'S RASCALS OF RHYTHM
No admission charge, Raffle, Excellent food & drink, to book a table phone 01235 766768

29 May 2014 - 8 Jun 2014
Oxford Playhouse
STAND
A brand new production featuring stories of courage and conscience from people who took a stand for something they believed in.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

30 May 2014, 8:30pm
Carswell Golf and Country Club, A420, Faringdon
LIVE JAZZ: JULIE EDWARDS & KEVIN DEARDEN
*""Standard Miles"" presents a British jazz super-group revisiting the music played by the legendary Miles Davis.
Simon Spillett (tenor sax), Henry Lowther (trumpet, flugel-horn), John Critchinson (piano), Dave Green (bass), Trevor Tomkins (drums)."
www.oxfordlivejazz.com 01367 718903

30 May 2014
Oxford Playhouse
THE OXFORD REVUE
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www.oxfordplayhouse.com

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30 May 2014 - 1 Jun 2014, 11am - 6pm
Bothy Vineyard, Frilford Heath
BOTHY VINEYARD OPEN DAYS
Free tutored tasting of wines with nibbles throughout these days. Free 1 hour tour at 11am on each of these days. Mark Alger, local art photographer will also be holding an exhibition in the winery of photos of vineyards and Abingdon, whilst an exhibition of enigmatic wooden sculptures will adorn our grounds. Entry free, no booking required.
www.bothyvineyard.co.uk

31 May 2014, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
"20.45 Who Put Bella In The Witch Elm?
21.30 The Scribers
22.15 Back Pocket Prophet
£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegottickets.com/event/266379"
www.gappytooth.com

31 May 2014
Oxford Playhouse
ERNEST AND THE PALE MOON
A haunting story of obsession and murder from the highly acclaimed Les Enfants Terribles.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

1 Jun 2014
Orchard Centre Didcot
DIDCOT SUNDAY MARKET: NATIONAL BBQ WEEK

3 Jun 2014, 7:45pm - 9:15pm
Old School Room, St Peter's, First Turn, Wolvercote. OX2 8AQ
ANHSO - THE RISE AND FALL OF OUR WOOD CULTURE - DR GABRIEL HEMERY
"Over the last 350 years the nature and health of our woodlands and treescapes have changed in step with their utility. Today, perhaps more so than in the last one hundred years, great sylvan opportunities lie ahead, and some significant challenges. Dr Hemery celebrates the legacy of Evelyn's 1664 Sylva, and looks to the future. As a practising silvologist (forest scientist) Dr Gabriel Hemery has undertaken research in subjects ranging from the walnut-fruit forests of Kyrgyzstan, to rearing chickens in farm woodlands; authoring more than 70 scientific articles. He created a new research woodland in Oxfordshire, Paradise Wood, and has planted tens of thousands of trees in field trials across Britain. His first book, The New Sylva, was published by Bloombsury in April 2014."
publicity@anhso.org.uk http://www.anhso.org.uk/

3 Jun 2014 - 5 Jun 2014, 7:30pm
St Leonard's Church, Bledington
BLEDINGTON MUSIC FESTIVAL
The 14th annual 3 day Festival of classical music.
www.bledingtonmusicfestival.co.uk

3 Jun 2014 - 7 Jun 2014
Oxford Playhouse
BETTY BLUE EYES
Betty Blue Eyes received rave reviews when it premiered in the West End in 2011, picking up an Olivier Award nomination for Best New Musical. This updated production featuring a 21-strong cast is directed by Daniel Buckroyd, Artistic Director of the Mercury Theatre Colchester, and is guaranteed to put a spring in your step.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

7 Jun 2014, 11am - 6pm
Balliol College, Oxford
ENGLISH WINE FESTIVAL
Entrance £8. Over 100 award winning English and Welsh wines will be available to taste and some to purchase. Meet the winemakers and Masters of Wine.
www.thameschilternsvineyards.org.uk

14 Jun 2014, 7:30pm - 10pm
St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Road, Oxford OX2 6RX
ST GILES ORCHESTRA CONCERT
"Liadov: Baba-Yaga; The Enchanted Lake; Kikimora
Gliere: Concerto for Coloratura Soprano (Yukiko Ishida)
Bernstein: Candide - Glitter and be Gay (Yukiko Ishida)
Rimsky Korsakov: Scheherazade
We welcome back our coloratura soprano soloist Dr Yukiko Ishida from Philadelphia USA to perform Reinhold Gliere's tuneful and unjustly neglected Concerto for Coloratura Soprano. The concert begins with three symphonic poems by the unjustly neglected Liadov who died 100 years ago, and ends with the magnificent Scheherazade.
07517487553 SalesStGilesOrchestra@gmail.com

17 Jun 2014, 6pm - 9pm
Fairacres, Marcham Road, Abingdon
MIELE SEASONAL SEAFOOD COOKERY COURSE
: Miele are joining forces with Michelin starred chef Ryan Simpson, to teach a group of passionateamateur chefs the the latest techniques in preparing and cooking seafood. As well as learning top tips from Ryan, guests will learn from the demo, how to cook two delicious seafood recipes, as well as being able to taste them afterwards! Drinks and canapés will be included in ticket prices. £35 per ticket
01235 233 171

20 Jun 2014, 8pm - 10pm
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building
CAVALERI QUARTET
Winners of Chamber Music Residency at Oxford University give recital at JdP.
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

21 Jun 2014 - 21 Jun 2014, 10am - 2am
City of Oxford College
OPEN EVENT
"City of Oxford College Campus Open event
For more deatils contact - 01865 550550"
lucy.baker@activatelearning.ac.uk

21 Jun 2014, 10am - 2:59am
Blackbird leyes Campus
OPEN EVENT
For more deatils contact - 01865 550550"
lucy.baker@activatelearning.ac.uk

28 Jun 2014, 7pm - 9pm
The Methodist Church, High Street, Witney
JOSEPH AND THEAMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAM-COAT -AMATEUR YOUTH PRODUCTION
A lively concert performance of the songs from this popular family musical, sung by the children of Songscope - Witney Young Singers. Interpreted in sign language by Dr Paul Whittaker OBE, founder of the charity Music and the Deaf.
07786 630164 www.songscope.org

28 Jun 2014, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf High St Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
20.45 The August List
21.30 Blunderbuster
22.15 Don't Go Plastic
£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegottickets.com/event/271430"
www.gappytooth.com

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What's on in OXFORDSHIRE | PUZZLES

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

8	4			6	3			
	2	7		4				9
	9	1				5		6
		3			8		1	
9		2	6		4	7		8
	5		7			2		
5		6				8	3	
1				7		4	2	
			3	5			9	7

8						2		6
		1	4	6				
7			8			9		3
		7			8			
	5	9				3	8	
			2			5		
9		6			2			5
				8	6	4		
5		4						8

	1					6	4	
							7	2
		9	7		8			
2				8				
		5	9		4	1		
				2				8
			1		3	9		
9	4							
	7	6					5	

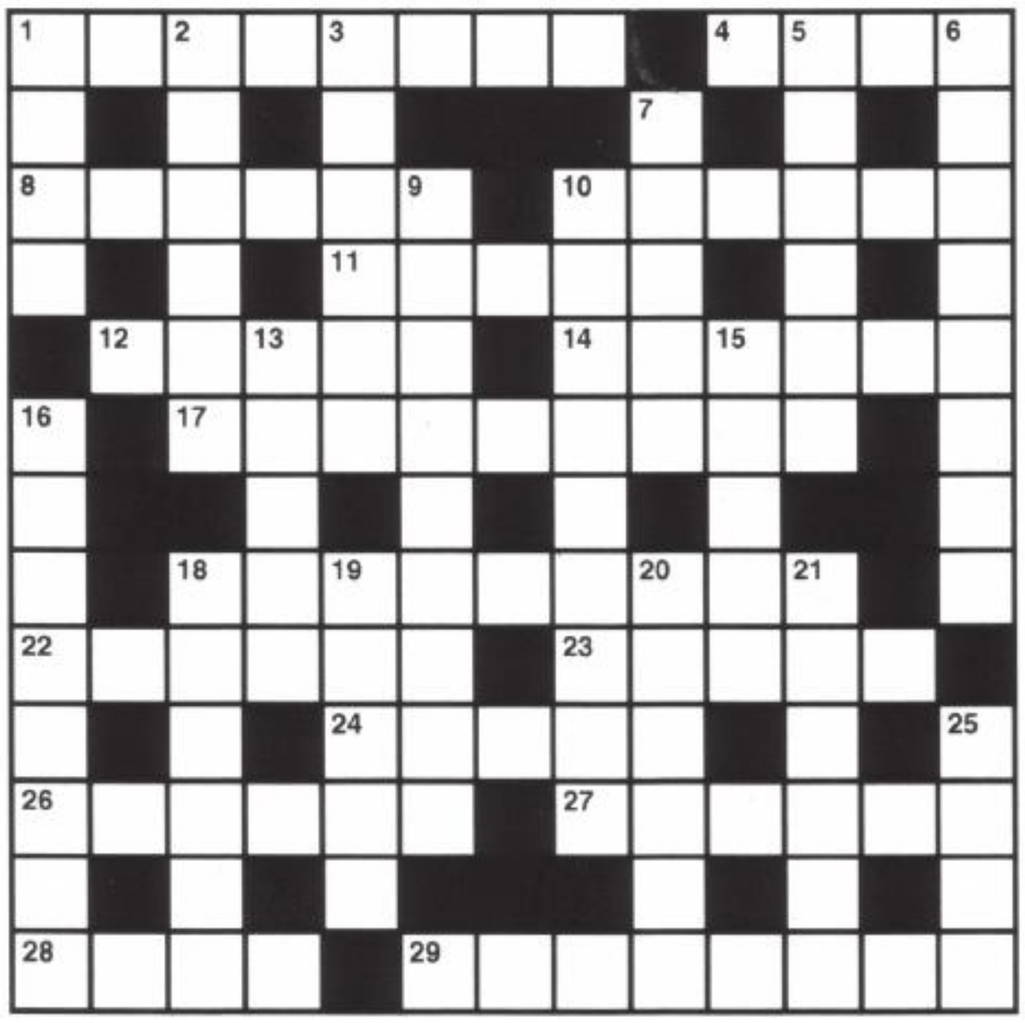
Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across
1 Permanent inhabitant (8)
4 Mark (4)
8 Small gate (6)
10 Large fish (6)
11 Finds fault (5)
12 Stick (5)
14 Home of Jewish nation (6)
17 Unsafe (9)
18 Shaping anew (9)
22 Old sailor (3-3)
23 Retract (5)
24 Royal (5)
26 Indian money (6)
27 Bigger (6)
28 Finishes (4)
29 Without thought (8)

Quick Clues Down
1 Ready for harvest (4)
2 Extend (6)
3 Church official (6)
5 South American plains (6)
6 Without melody (8)
7 Lariat (5)
9 Tongues (9)
10 Of the soul (9)
13 Measured (5)
15 Devastates (5)
16 Keep (8)
18 Grated (6)
19 Centres (5)
20 Decorated with insets (6)
21 Mouthwash (6)
25 Branches of learning (4)

Cryptic Clues Across
1 Put up a fight but the rest dies out (8)
4 Said to be drunk at the funeral (4)
8 I'd made out a crown (6)
10 It could be nice to take Mother to the movies (6)
11 Being simple, I'm taken in by the boy (5)
12 Breaks more than one 2 down (5)
14 Retiring man gets round his friend with an explosive result (6)
17 The issue that puts me back before a race (9)
18 Vowing that as a professional, I'm coming back to sing (9)
22 Six may be true to chastity (6)
23 There's a lot at variance in the final count (5)
24 Found trustworthy by the jury? (5)
26 Cowboy's limits? (6)
27 Revolutionary's up and about the tavern for a meal (6)
28 One's never so flat (4)
29 Left for the Sahara? (8)

Cryptic Clues Down
1 Sounds as if he regretted being impolite (4)
2 Personification of the beginning of Utopia in the state (6)
3 Said he was to see Esther has an afternoon rest? (6)
5 In play he cometh - out of 10 across? (6)
6 Venus getting ready to fight again? (8)
7 Desert where sin is first class (5)
9 Minor mess produces wrong names (9)
10 See the trial, Edward? It's disputed (9)
13 Fashionable pain (5)
15 The aim of the decimal system (5)
16 Scan poetry? Quite the opposite (8)
18 The value of absorbing a new start for the sovereign? (6)
19 The wrong route to find some space (5)
20 Chemical element that is surrounding the Norse god (6)
21 Made of argent, not necessarily set in silver (6)
25 Poke with a soft stick (4)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

4	9	1	6	7	8	2	3	5
8	3	5	2	1	9	4	7	6
2	7	6	3	5	4	8	1	9
7	2	3	8	9	6	1	5	4
6	5	8	4	2	1	7	9	3
9	1	4	5	3	7	6	2	8
3	8	2	1	4	5	9	6	7
5	4	7	9	6	2	3	8	1
1	6	9	7	8	3	5	4	2

6	4	8	2	1	3	5	9	7
3	7	2	9	6	5	1	8	4
9	1	5	8	4	7	6	2	3
5	2	3	1	8	4	9	7	6
4	9	7	5	3	6	2	1	8
1	8	6	7	2	9	4	3	5
2	3	9	4	5	8	7	6	1
8	5	1	6	7	2	3	4	9
7	6	4	3	9	1	8	5	2

6	7	9	2	3	8	4	5	1
4	2	5	6	1	9	7	8	3
8	1	3	5	7	4	9	2	6
5	6	4	8	9	2	1	3	7
7	9	2	3	5	1	6	4	8
3	8	1	4	6	7	2	9	5
2	4	7	1	8	3	5	6	9
9	5	8	7	2	6	3	1	4
1	3	6	9	4	5	8	7	2

Quick Crossword
Across: 4 Permit 8 Carrier 9 Agenda 10 Persecute 11 Stop 13 Steed 14 Ulsters 16 Lecture 18 Ember 19 Ones 21 Consulate 22 Diadem 23 Lignite 24 Nestle
Down: 1 Gazetteer 2 Prospects 3 Leech 5 Edge 6 Minute 7 Tramps 9 Atoll 11 Stimulant 12 Orientate 15 Broom 16 London 17 Cedars 20 Astir 21 Cell

Cryptic Crossword
Across: 4 Depart 8 Pompous 9 Mental 10 Street-car 11 Been 13 Angle 14 Millers 16 Peanuts 18 Acids 19 Edit 21 Shellback 22 Dainty 23 Spirits 24 Egging
Down: 1 Portended 2 Appellant 3 Suits 5 Ever 6 Attlee 7 Talons 9 Maniac 11 Blackbird 12 Eradicate 15 Itchy 16 Peddle 17 Ailing 20 Slope 21 Stun

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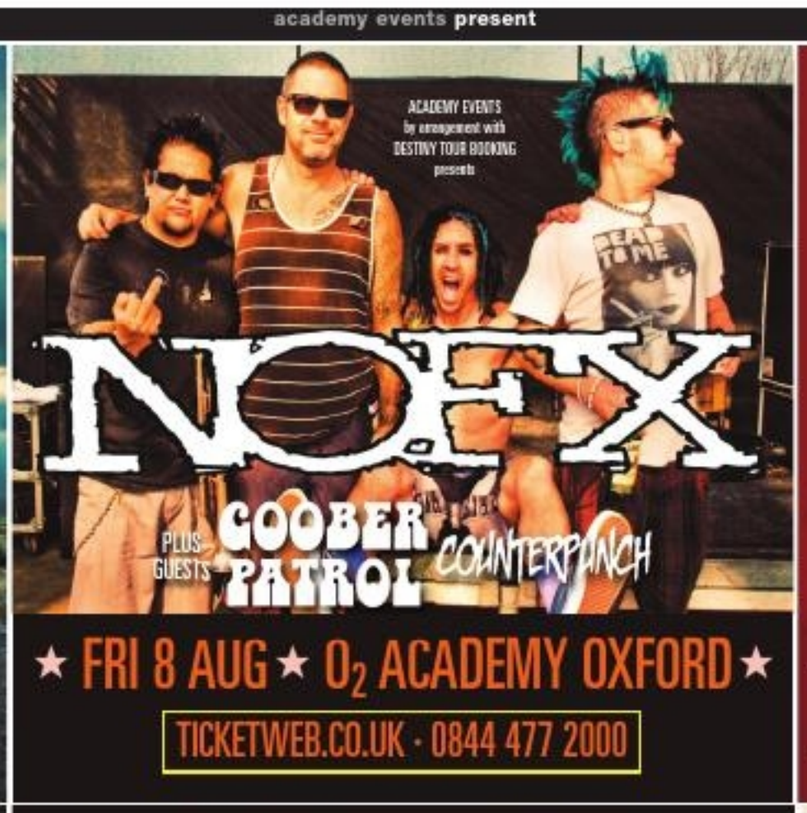

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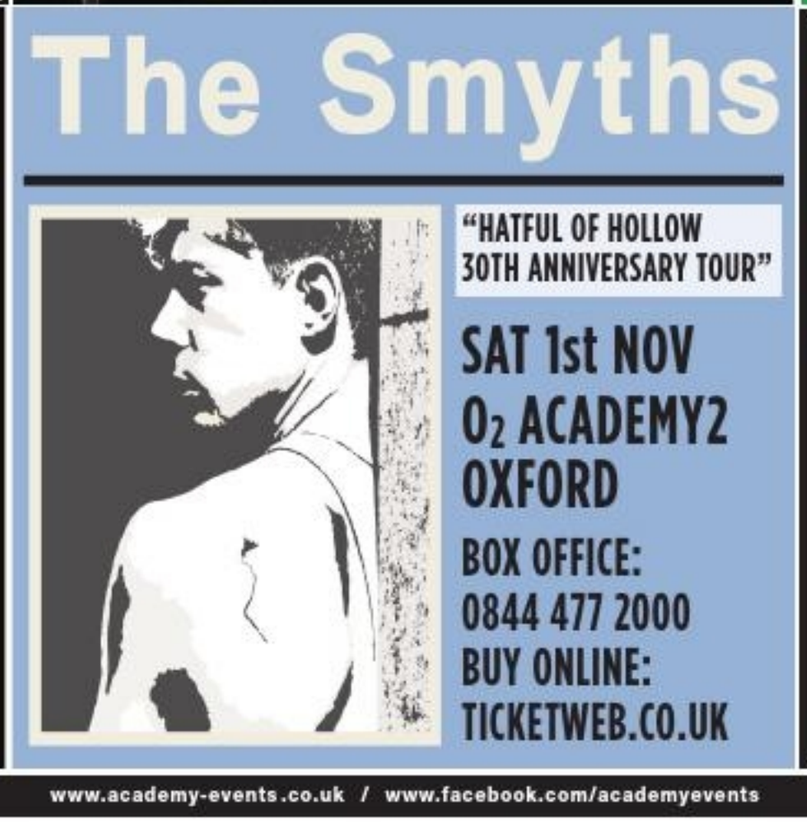

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WIN tickets to the CLA Game Fair at Blenheim!

THE celebration of the Great British countryside, the CLA Game Fair is returning to Blenheim Palace from 18th - 20th July 2014 and for any discerning country lover it is an event not to be missed!

With food to fashion, fishing to fine arts, elegant gardens to archery, climbing walls to craft demos and of course main arena displays there is something for all the family to enjoy.

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Closing date:
Friday, May 23, 2014

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We are offering you the chance to win a pair of adult one day tickets to a day of your choice and don't forget 16 and under come FREE so all the family can come along!

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Q: In which county is Blenheim Palace?

CLA GameFair

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FARES	Adult	Junior	JOINING STATIONS	Depart	Return
Standard Class	£85	£43	Didcot Parkway	06:15	22:15
First Class Plus	£135	£105	Oxford	06:30	22:00
Premier Dining	£209	£179	Banbury	07:00	21:30

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FARES	Adult	Junior	JOINING STATIONS	Depart	Return
Standard Class	£79	£39	Banbury	07:00	22:50
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Premier Dining	£199	£169	Swindon	08:20	21:30

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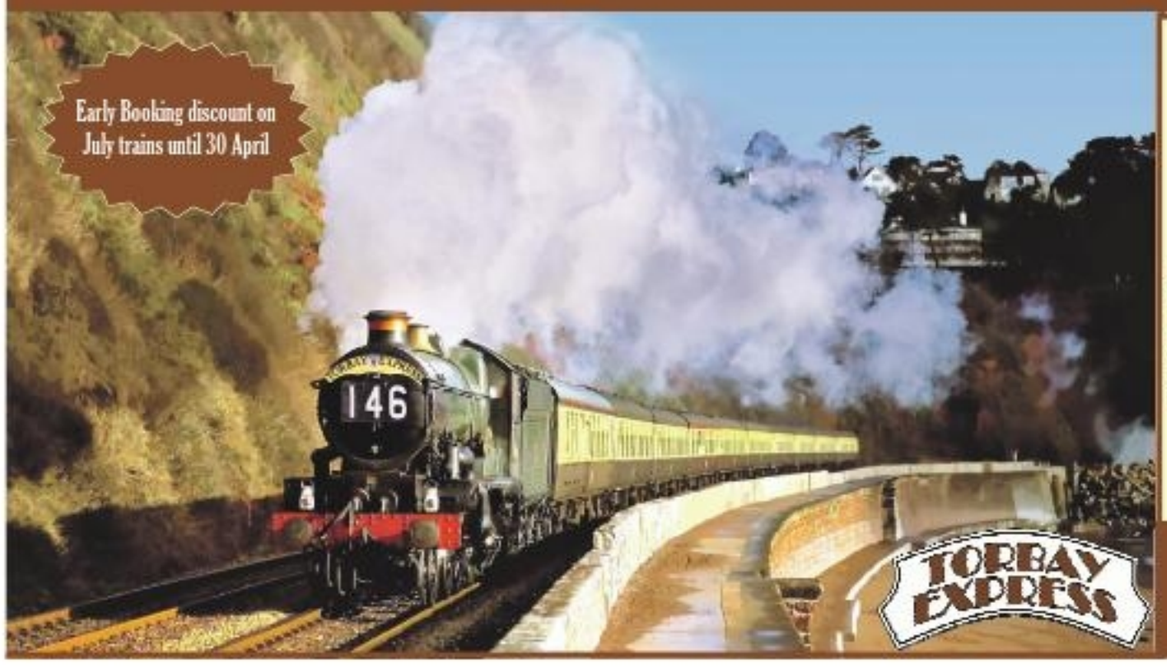

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Fiat's statement of intent

REVIEW: Fiat 500L Beats Edition

By **James Richings**

WHEN you think of good looking Italian cars, you think of the Ferrari Enzo, the Alfa Romeo 8C Competizione and the Maserati Quattroporte. The latest version of the Fiat 500L hits the roads this year with the high hopes that it will join the list.

The new Fiat 500L Beats Edition keeps the chunky off-road tyres and tall stance of the trekking from the previous version, but there is a twist. Everyone loves to give the speakers a blast once in a while, an urge it can satisfy with a subwoofer for powerful, eardrum-bursting bass notes. The simple Bluetooth connection means you can connect up easily.

It has a colour combination of grey, black and red which means the 500L Beats Edition looks young and trendy with the arrogance that someone in their twenties would have. The car stands out from the rest of the other 500L's because of the new colour style and the sleeker smaller shape. It appears like a massive statement of intent by Fiat, who seem to be targeting a younger audience.

The 120-horsepower 1.6 litre diesel engine is quieter than the last version so you can listen to the bass drop, and the tyres are not bad. The semi-winter tyres are a good gift for tackling the icy and snowy roads in the winter.

The boot of the car has a high floor which means boot space is limited, but there is still plenty of room. It looks a bit like BMW's Mini Countryman and Mini Clubman. Although the Mini is more spacious, the new 500L Beats Edition has the up-to-date technology, to make sure drivers enjoy their ride.

To sum it up: if you want to impress your friends, or enemies, it could well do the job. Arrogance, confidence and loud is the three words that spring to my mind.

• The Fiat 500L

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• Bold bumpers & side mouldings

THE FIAT 500L RANGE FROM NIL ADVANCE PAYMENT*

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There are currently 10 versions of Fiat 500L models at NIL advance payment. For further information and for a complete list of Fiat cars available on the Motability scheme, please call 0844 324 1630 or visit our website: www.hartwell.co.uk

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Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500L range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 33.6 (8.4) – 62.8 (4.5); Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – 76.3 (3.7); Combined 44.1 (6.4) – 70.6 (4.0). CO_2 emissions 149 – 105 g/km.
Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. *Vehicles shown are Fiat 500L Trekking with optional Bicolour paint at additional cost and Fiat 500L MPW Lounge with optional Bicolour paint at additional cost. ^The Fiat 500L and Fiat 500L MPW boot space is based on 5 seat version with rear seats pulled forward. ‡Based on 5+2 seat version. 5 standard seats and two extra seats for persons up to 1.65m. Advance Payments are correct at time of going to press and subject to orders being placed between 1st April - 30th June 2014. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO2 emissions: 373 - 88g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, Vauxhall Tech Line, New Astra Hatchback/Sports Tourer BiTurbo, Zafira Classic, Ampera and VXR8 models. Flexible Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Vauxhall Motor Finance RH1 1SR or Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. **Vauxhall Deposit Contribution excludes ADAM, Mokka and Corsa SXi models. ^Term can be from 24-60 months, except ADAM (24-48 months). Flexible Finance offer available on orders or registrations before 30th June 2014. †£500 Fuel offer when purchasing a new vehicle applies to orders between 16th and 19th May 2014. Fuel offer not available on ADAM and Corsa Sting models. Offers available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners, and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B supported units). All other customers are excluded. Available at participating Retailers only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit.

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The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km) for the: **107** range: Urban 52.3 – 55.4 (5.4 – 5.1), Extra Urban 70.7 – 74.3 (4.0 – 3.8), Combined 62.8 – 65.7 (4.5 – 4.3) and CO2 104 – 99. **208** range: Urban 34.9 – 78.4 (8.1 – 3.6), Extra Urban 62.8 – 88.2 (4.5 – 3.2), Combined 48.7 – 83.0 (5.8 – 3.4) and CO2 135 – 87. **2008** range: Urban 36.7 - 68.9 (7.7-4.1), Extra Urban 58.9 - 78.5 (4.8 - 3.6), Combined 47.9 - 74.3 (5.9 - 3.8 and CO2 135 - 98.

Models shown for illustration purposes only. Excess mileage charges may apply. Passport personal lease, Plus initial deposit followed by X 48 monthly payments based on 6,000 miles per annum. Other payment options are available for higher mileage plans, please ask for details. Payments include VAT at the current rate of 20%, however are subject to fluctuation should the rate change. Initial payment (deposit shown). Finance subject to status, written details on request. We will introduce you to a limited number of lenders who may be able to help finance your purchase. These lenders may or may not pay us for the introduction.

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12 62 KUGA TITANIUM 2.0 TDCI 140 PS DIESEL 2WD, 5dr, midnight sky met/grey part leather trim, e/w&m, c/l, cruise, auto lights & wipers, auto dimming mirror, 6 spd, DAB r & CD, Blue tooth hands free, roof rails, privacy glass, front fogs, climate, HFS, ESP, ABS,

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11 11 KA ZETEC 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, midnight black met/grey, 5 spd, PAS, a/c, HFS, r/CD, e/w&m, 2 airbags, ABS, c/l, front fogs, alloys, rear roof spoiler, one local owner from new, very low mileage 7,500 miles, FSH

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12 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS 5DR ESTATE AUTOMATIC, moondust silver/grey, 6 spd auto, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio CD, Blue tooth hands free, a/c, HFS, rear park sensors, front fogs, 6 airbags, ESP, ABS, FSH, one local owner from new, very low mileage 6,100 miles **£12,4955**

06 56 FOCUS GHIA 1.8 PETROL, 5 dr, tonic blue met/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, a/c, HFS, auto lights & wipers, cruise, 6 airbags, front fogs, ABS, 2 local owners from new, FSH, 51,907 miles .. **£4,795**

12 12 FOCUS ZETEC 1.6 TDCI DIESEL, 5dr, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB r/CD, Blue tooth, HFS, a/c, privacy glass, 17" alloys, rear park sensors, front fogs, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, one local owner, FSH, RFL only £20 per year, 20,400 miles **£11,195**

12 12 FOCUS ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST 125PS, 5dr, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB r/CD, Blue tooth, HFS, a/c, privacy glass, 17" alloys, rear park, sensors, front fogs, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, one local owner, FSH, RFL only £20 per year, 9,900 miles..... **£12,295**

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13 13 FOCUS TITANIUM 1.0 ECOBOOST 125PS PETROL ESTATE, e/w&m, c/l, DAB r/CD, Blue tooth & voice control, cruise, auto lights & wipers, rear park sensors, HFS, fogs, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, 1 local owner from new, £30 road tax/year, 2 years manufacturer's warranty, 9,900 miles ... **£15,995**

KA

11 11 KA ZETEC 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, midnight black met/grey, 5 spd, PAS, a/c, HFS, r/CD, e/w&m, 2 airbags, ABS, c/l, front fogs, alloys, rear roof spoiler, one local owner from new, very low mileage 7,500 miles, FSH **£6,995**

14 14 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, crystal white/grey, 5spd, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, delivery miles only 15 miles, RFL £30 per year **£7,995**

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11 11 KA ZETEC 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, scuba blue met/grey, 5 spd, PAS, a/c, HFS, r/CD, e/w&m, 2 airbags, ABS, c/l, front fogs, alloys, one owner from new, FSH, RFL only £30 per year, 17,179 miles **£6,995**

10 10 KA DIGITAL 1.2 PETROL, 3 dr, midnight black & yellow/grey, 5 spd, r/CD, a/c, c/l, HFS, e/w&m, ABS, 2 airbags, 2 owners from new, service history, £30RFL, 30,183 miles **£6,595**

11 11 KA EDGE 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, midnight black/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, PAS, 2 airbags, a/c, £30 RFL per year, one owner from new, 31,213 miles **£6,295**

10 60 KA TITANIUM 1.2, petrol, 3dr, moonlight silver met/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, climate, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, fr fogs, alloys, 2 a/bags, ABS, 2 owners from new, only £30 RFL/year, 34,827 miles . **£6,995**

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12 62 KUGA TITANIUM 2.0 TDCI 140 PS DIESEL 2WD, 5dr, midnight sky met/grey part leather trim, e/w&m, c/l, cruise, auto lights & wipers, auto dimming mirror, 6 spd, DAB r & CD, Blue tooth hands free, roof rails, privacy glass, front fogs, climate, HFS, ESP, ABS, one local owner, FSH, very low mileage 9,800 miles..... **£17,995**

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11 61 FIESTA ZETEC 1.25 PETROL 82PS ZETEC, 3dr, moondust silver/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, a/c, r/CD, PAS, ABS, ESP, front fogs, 5 airbags, City pack, Blue tooth, 7 months manufacturers warranty, one owner from new, FSH, low mileage 12,501 miles **£8,795**

12 12 FIESTA 1.25 PETROL ZETEC, 5dr, panther black met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, Blue tooth hands free, HFS, a/c, ABS, 5 airbags, front fogs, PAS, one owner from new, FSH, 12 months manufacturer's warranty, 13,020 miles..... **£9,595**

11 60 FIESTA TITANIUM 1.4 PETROL AUTO, morello met/grey, e/w&m, PAS, climate, auto lights & mirrors, auto dimming mirror, HFS, cruise, c/l, ABS, ESP, one owner from new, FSH, low mileage 9,536 miles..... **£9,395**

11 60 FIESTA 1.25 PETROL ZETEC 82PS, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, front fogs, 5 airbags, aircon, HFS, alloys, ABS, ESP, one owner from new, FSH, 35,948 miles.... **£8,595 NOW £7,995**

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04 04 FUSION 1.6 PETROL, 5dr, magnum grey met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, a/c, PAS, alloys, 2 airbags, ABS, HFS, front fogs, 1 local owner, very low mileage for age 28,675 miles, FSH . **£3,995**

08 58 FUSION STYLE 1.4 TDCI CLIMATE DIESEL, moondust silver/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, PAS, a/c, 2 airbags, ABS, HFS, 1 local owner from new, FSH, RFL only £30/year, 54,808 miles . **£4,995**

11 60 FUSION ZETEC 1.4 PETROL, 5dr, sea grey met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, front fogs, r/CD, 2 airbags, PAS, HFS, alloys, ABS, a/c, rear park sensors, 1 owner, low mileage for year 13,400, FSH **£7,895**

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11 11 MONDEO TITAINUM X 2.0 TDCI 163PS DIESEL, 5dr, moondust silver met/grey, 6 spd, e/w&m, c/l, global closing, cruise + climate control, park sensors, ABS, ESP, r/CD, Blue tooth, HFS, front fog lights, auto lights & wipers, FSH, one owner from new, low mileage 27,000 miles.... **£14,595**

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11 11 C MAX 1.6 TDCI 115PS DIESEL TITANIUM, ink blue met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, heated windscreen, 6 spd, Dab radio & CD, Blue tooth, climate, cruise control, auto lights & wipers, PAS, City pack, alloys, one owner from new, low mileage, service history, 15,100 miles **£11,795**

13 13 B MAX ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST PETROL 100PS, 5dr, tectonic silver/grey, e/w&m, a/c, DAB r/CD, B'tooth hands free, Ford Sync, hill start assist, HFS, fr'fogs, ABS, ESP, RFL only £30 per year, 1 owner from new, SH, 2 years manufacturer's warranty, 16,370 mls..... **£12,595 NOW £11,995**

11 11 GRAND C MAX 1.6 TDCI 115PS DIESEL TITANIUM 7 SEATER MPV, midnight sky/grey, e/w&m, heated screen, 6spd, DAB radio & CD, climate, cruise, auto lights & wipers, auto park assist, front & rear park sensors, c/l, PAS, Blue tooth, FSH, one owner from new, 31,922 miles **£13,395**

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2005	VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.8 SPORT HARD-TOP CAB EXCELLENT CONDITION BLUE 59,000	£3,295
2003	FORD STREETKA. 1.6 CABRIOLET. A/C, HEATED LEATHER SEATS, CD, ALLOYS 66,000 RED	£2,495
2003	FORD STREETKA (SOFT-TOP) E/W, CD, ALLOYS. BLUE 58,000	£2,495
2005	FORD KA. LOW MILEAGE, LONG MOT, SERVICE HISTORY. 62,000 SILVER	£2,295
2004	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 3DR. LONG MOT, A/C, CD ETC, GOOD CONDITION 82,000 BLUE	SOLD
2004	FORD FOCUS 3DR TDCI. LONG MOT CD A/C SILVER 113,000	£2,195
2003	PEUGEOT 206 1.6 COUPE CONVERTIBLE S, PETROL IN BLUE	£2,195
2003	PEUGEOT 206 3DR 1.4 CD, E/W, E/M, 2 KEYS, GOOD RUNNER. 101,000 SILVER.	SOLD
2004	HYUNDAI MATRIX 1.6 A/C, ALLOYS, S/H, CD VALUE UTILITY CAR. 99,000 SILVER	SOLD
2001	HONDA CIVIC 3DR COUPE 1.7 V-TEC. BLUE 100,000	SOLD
1994	BMW 520 SE AUTO NEW MOT, SILVER 133,000	£1,495
2003	RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 5DR A/C, E/W, ALLOYS, CD. 86,000 SILVER.	REDUCED £1,000
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1996	NISSAN ALMERA. NEW MOT, GOOD CONDITION, FSH, GREEN, 52,000	£995

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MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. 7 year /100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms, conditions and exclusions visit kia.co.uk or see your local dealer. Price, Reevoo score and number of reviews correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. Models shown: 2014 Sportage '1' 1.6 GDI 133bhp 6-speed manual @ £17,500 On The Road (OTR) excluding metallic paint at £510; Sorento 'KX-1' 2.2 CRDi 194bhp 6-speed manual 7 seat @ £24,700 including customer saving of £2,000 and excluding optional metallic paint at £550 OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Retail customers only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered before 30 June 2014. *4.9% APR available on Kia Conditional Sale and Kia Access on all Sportage and Sorento models. 10% minimum deposit required. Maximum term of 36 months. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offer. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantees / Indemnities may be required. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Customer savings vary by model derivative.

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MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. To finance your purchase we may introduce you to a limited number of lenders. A guarantee may be required. Over 18's only. Written quotations available on request from Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, RH1 1QA. Offers apply to vehicles ordered by 30th June 2014. Calls may be recorded for training purposes.

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OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE*	REPRESENTATIVE APR
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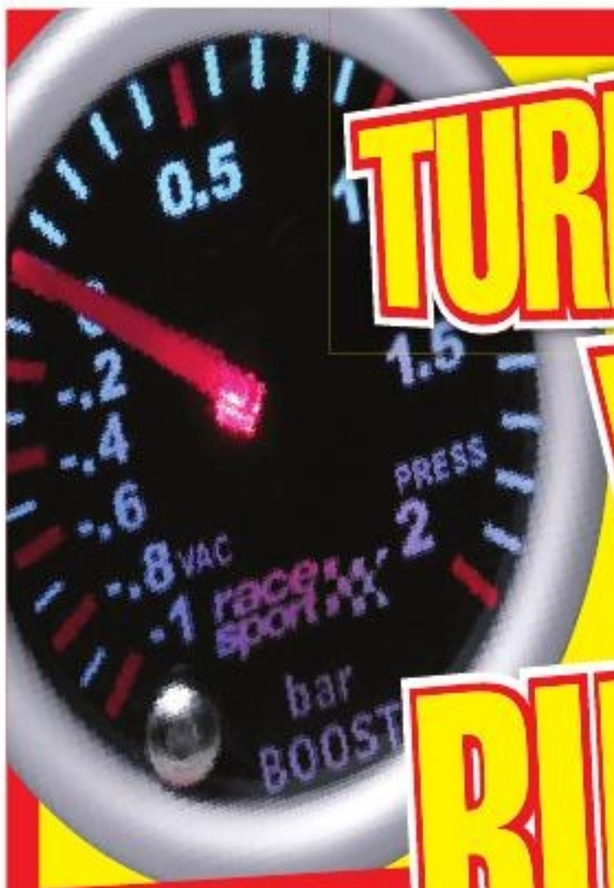

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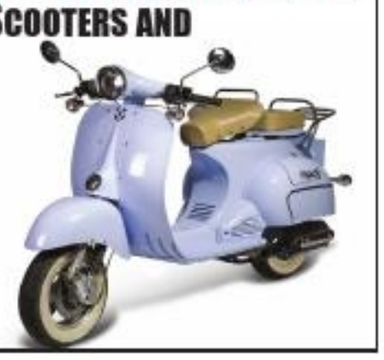

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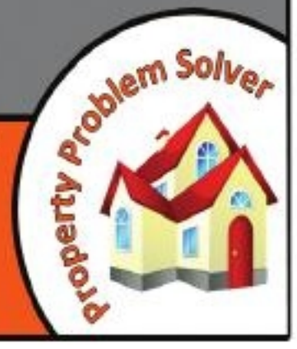

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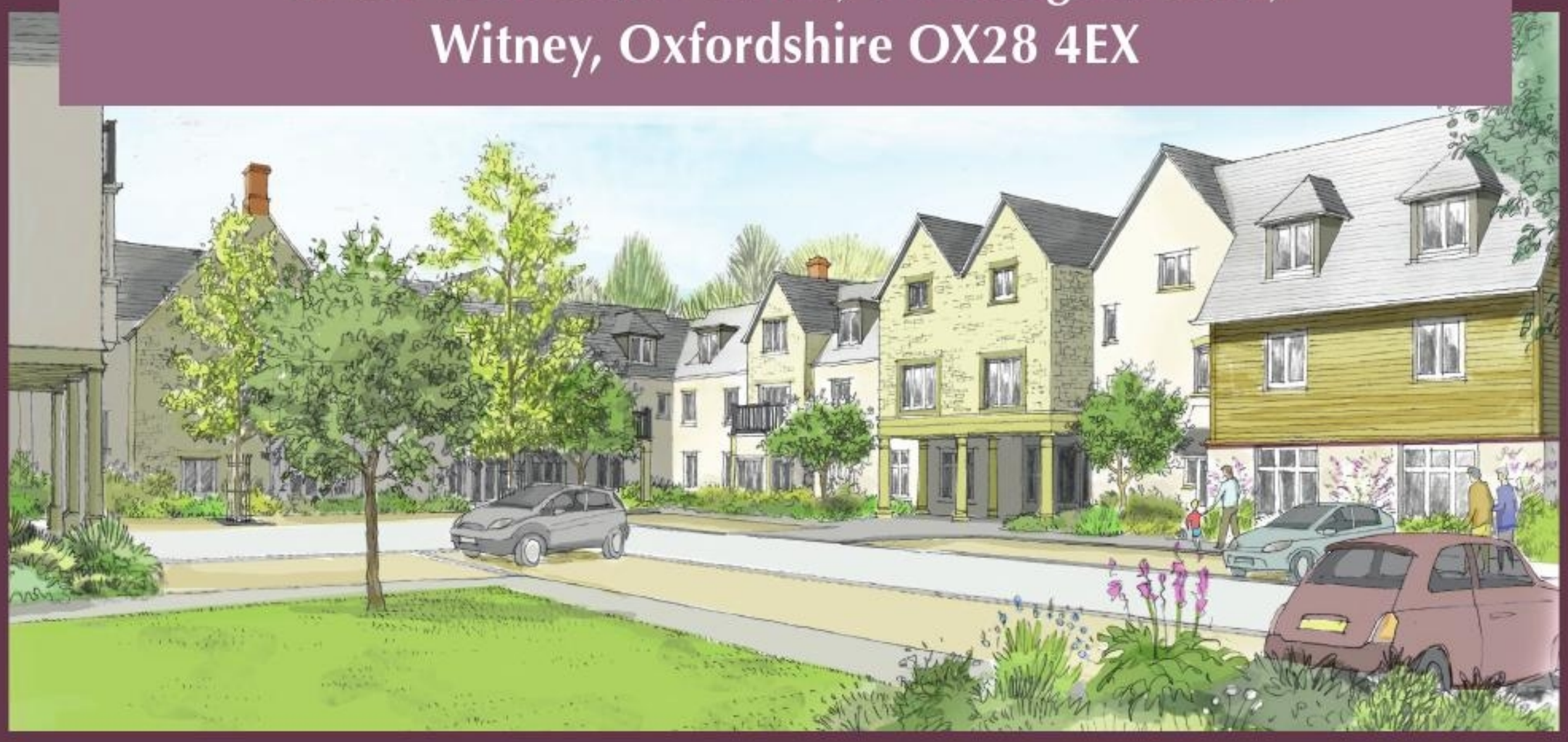

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Scott is set for Headingley

LONDON Welsh winger Nick Scott hopes his hat-trick against Nottingham on April 26 will prove to be a good omen as the club prepares for the Greene King IPA Championship play-offs.

The winger crossed three times in the Exiles' 64-12 win on the last day of the regular season, two years after his last hat-trick for the club in its successful 2011/12 play-off campaign.

Scott went on to score in the semi-final and final as Welsh were crowned champions, and the 23-year-old welcomes a repeat.

He said: "Hopefully, it's a good omen.

"When I score three tries and Seb [Stegmann] scores two tries it means the team's attacking really well."

The Exiles face Leeds Carnegie at Headingley on Sunday for the first leg and Scott says Welsh will need to draw from their 31-24 win earlier this season when they overturned a 12-point deficit.

He continued: "When we went up to Headingley they really took it to us and we had to come back from 12 points down, but we're in the mind-set not to let that happen again.

"It's a Championship semi-final and we can't put ourselves in the same position."

• *Nick Scott scores one of his three tries against Nottingham (Picture by Martin John)*

Corker is hungry for more success

WHEN London Welsh line-up at Headingley this Sunday for the first leg of their Greene King IPA Championship semi-final against Leeds Carnegie, all bets will be off.

That is the opinion of Exiles club captain Matt Corker, who is desperate for another taste of Aviva Premiership rugby with the Dragons.

Corker won promotion to the highest level of English rugby with Welsh in 2012 and has set his sights on a return after the club's relegation to the Championship last year.

This weekend's trip to Leeds also holds extra importance for Corker as the 31-year-old was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation - a heart condition that causes an irregular and often abnormally fast heart rate - after a 31-24 win at Headingley last November.

After a five-month lay-off, Corker, who has made just under 200 appearances for the Exiles, returned to action in March.

The second row forward said: "I'm looking forward to going back there and having a better performance than last time, I was struggling a little bit.

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"I had quite a long break, but I think it has been of benefit.

"It's nice for me to get to this stage of the season and feel really fresh and thankfully everything is absolutely perfect with my heart now."

He added: "I love this stage of the season, I've always loved the closing stages and it's what you play for.

"It is such an amazing prize on offer, to get back into the Premiership, and I think that's what makes it so exciting.

"At this stage of the season all bets are off.

"The form book goes out the window, you have got two games and you have got to come out on top"

The Exiles will welcome Leeds to the Kassam Stadium on May 18 for the second leg and Corker says his memories of 2012 drive a passion for more success.

"I anticipated before I won the Championship that if you win one, maybe you will be satisfied," he said.

"But it actually makes me even hungrier."

• *Matt Corker (Picture by Martin John)*

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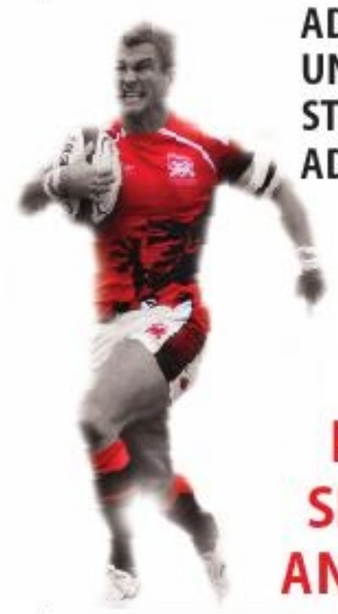

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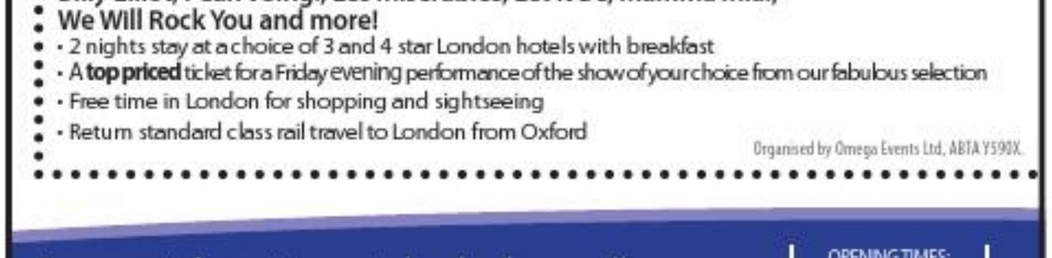

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U's give chance to youthful quartet

MATT Bevans is one of four development squad players to be offered a new contract by Oxford United for next season's Sky Bet League Two campaign.

The 20-year-old full-back, along with fellow defender Sam Long, midfielder Aidan Hawtin and striker Josh Shama, has impressed manager Gary Waddock.

Bevans has made 11 starts for United this season, while Long has featured five times.

Hawtin and Shama, although yet to make senior appearances, have starred in United's development side.

"All four of them have done really well this season," said Waddock.

"They have an energy about them, they work hard at their game and they want to do well for the club.

"The fans have seen what Matt Bevans and Sam Long can do already.

"Josh never stops working in games and is a real handful. Aidan has fought back from a couple of injuries and fully deserves his chance to push on next year.

"It is exciting to see so many young players coming through at the club. They will be part of the future."

United are now able to call upon eleven players that have come through the youth and development system with Max Crocombe, Tyrone Marsh, Josh Ruffels and Callum O'Dowda all with first team experience.

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Josh Ashby, James Roberts and Sam Humphreys have also been offered professional contracts this season.

United's chairman Ian Lenagan added: "A lot of hard work and investment has gone into developing our own players, most of them local lads.

"There is a clear pathway now. The Development Squad has done its job this season.

"The aim was to help four or five players progress into the first team squad and next season those players have the opportunity to stake a claim as first team regulars."

However, full-back David Lynn and centre-half Kenzer Lee have not been offered new deals.

Waddock added: "It's never easy. I hope will find another club and bounce back from this disappointment."

Waddock said decisions on senior players would be decided at the end of this week.

On Wednesday, United accepted first team coach Andy Melville's resignation.

• *Matt Bevans (Picture by Steve Daniels)*

Ackling starts preparations for Southern League debut

WANTAGE Town manager Gary Ackling says he is under no illusions about how tough the step up to the Southern League will be next season.

The Alfredians secured promotion to Division One South & West on April 28 by clinching the Hellenic Premier Division title in the last game of the season.

Ackling, his assistant Andy Lyne and coach Rob Wytchard have all experienced Southern League football, and the trio will make decisions on retaining players over the next few weeks.

"I think some will probably fall by the way side, because commitment wise they can't do it, but we knew we would have to bring in some more players anyway," said Ackling.

"We have got a good nucleus of Southern League players, Mark James, Robbie Sadler, Tom Melledew, Jimmy Deabill, so they know what it's all about."

He added: "We realise it is a big step up, we're under no illusions, but we'll go out and give it our best shot.

"We will probably have a couple of weeks off, but we've put some plans in place.

"From a player point of view we'll start to get down to the nitty-gritty and highlight new players we need in the next couple of weeks."

'Good things come to an end' for Ford at Oxford City

MIKE Ford said he has left Oxford City in a good position after the club announced last week that he would be stepping down as manager with immediate effect.

The Skrill North club announced Ford's departure in a statement on their website last Wednesday – after five years as manager.

Ford joined City in 2006 as a player and became manager in 2009, guiding the club to the sixth tier of English football in 2012.

City finished third from bottom in the Skrill North, but avoided the drop due to Vauxhall Motors' voluntary relegation.

The statement read: "Following a directors meeting the club have announced that Mike Ford will not be in the First Team Manager role next season.

"The directors wish to sincerely thank Mike for all his hard work and dedication over his eight years at the club."

Ford said: "I'm okay with it, all good things come to an end, and now is probably the right time for some new ideas at the top.

"I have left the club in the Conference North for a third season and have left the club in a better position than when I joined."

Another top-10 result for Smith

BRADLEY Smith rode a solid race in round four of the MotoGP championship in Jerez last Sunday, as he finished in eighth place.

Smith made a strong start from his grid position of ninth to jump up five spots at the first corner.

But he steadily dropped back to eighth as the race went on, and despite a late charge to try and regain the places dropped, he was unable to move up the field.

"We've had a few issues over this weekend, so eighth position is not a bad result at all," said Smith.

"The plan was always to be in the fight for fifth, and it would have been great to finish at the front of that group, but I am still pleased with what we achieved.

"To be competitive until the final lap, obviously makes me happy and we made the right decision on the tyre choice."

Smith moved up to eighth in the championship standings following Sunday's race, and has a total of 28 points.

The next race takes place at the French circuit of Le Mans on May 18.

• *Bradley Smith finished eighth in Jerez (Picture courtesy of Tech 3)*

Sport Bites

Plato problems

JASON Plato endured a difficult weekend at Thruxton last Sunday, as he lost the lead of the British Touring Car Championship standings and dropped to fifth.

Results of sixth and seventh in the opening races gave Plato solid points, but a collision in the final race meant he scored nothing in the last event.

He is now 35 points behind standings leader Andrew Jordan, and will hope for better luck at Oulton Park on June 8.

Town go down

ABINGDON Town are set to drop into the North Berks League from next season, after suffering a disastrous Hellenic Premier campaign.

The team finished bottom of the league, winning just twice and finishing 10 points behind the next closest team Newbury.

Town were greatly affected by the floods in the winter, with a number of their home games having to be rearranged.

Saints victory

OXFORD Saints American football squad won on the road for the second game running, as they beat Lincolnshire Bombers 19-6.

The visitors scored three touchdowns on their way to victory, coming a week after they comfortably beat Sandwell Steelers 34-6 in the first game of the season.

They return to action on May 18, as they make the trip to face Leicester Falcons.

'I have drawn a line under it'

GARY Waddock said he has already drawn a line under Oxford United's disappointing end to the season, after their campaign finished with a 3-1 defeat at Northampton Town last Saturday.

Ryan Williams put United in front on seven minutes but the Fulham loanee was sent off for kicking out at Ricky Ravenhill.

The Cobblers took full advantage of having an extra man, with John Marquis, Ivan Toney and Mathias Kouo-Doumbe all netting.

United finished eighth in Sky Bet League Two, nine points adrift of the play-offs after losing seven of their last eight games, and Waddock will hold talks with players this week.

Several are out of contract, including captain Jake Wright and top scorer James Constable.

Waddock told the club: "I have drawn a line under it all.

"I am looking forward to the coming weeks and months to try and assemble a group that are going to do better in terms of results and performances.

"Towards the end of this week we will know where we are with it all so they will have to be prepared to see where their careers are going to go."

ABINGDON Guardian Sport

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More Sport inside: Rugby: Corker is hungry for more success | Football: U's give chance to youthful quartet

Bottas and Massa hope for further improvement

SPAIN BECKONS FOR WILLIAMS

• *Valtteri Bottas will be hoping for his fifth top-10 finish of the season in Spain (Picture courtesy of Williams Martini Racing)*

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

WILLIAMS Martini Racing will be hoping to extend their run of points-scoring finishes at the Spanish Grand Prix this weekend, as the teams head to Barcelona for round five of the Formula One championship.

Valtteri Bottas has taken points at all four races so far this season, while Felipe Massa was able to score in Malaysia and Bahrain.

The team took a surprise win at the Catalunya track in 2012 through Pastor Maldonado, and Massa is also a former winner at the venue.

"I have won in Barcelona before, which is important as it means I can enjoy the race a little more," said Massa. "I know what it takes to win at the circuit so I can have a little confidence when driving there.

"Downforce is really important in Spain so we have to make sure the aerodynamic setup is correct.

"Barcelona is historically a place where teams bring upgrades, but as every team does this it's a case of whose upgrades make the most difference."

Bottas could only finish 16th in his first race at Barcelona last year, but will be hoping to extend his points run to five races this time around.

He said: "As a team we are looking forward to Spain. Once we are in Europe it's easier to bring upgrades out over a race weekend.

"The time gap between [the last race in] China and Spain has been really important as we have had time to improve the car, although how much we have moved forward is hard to say until we drive it."

Meanwhile, Enstone-based Lotus will be hoping to turn round their dismal start to the season and score their first points of the year.

Maldonado fended off competition from Fernando Alonso to win in 2012, but is aiming for points this year.

He said: "It will be very important to start scoring some points, but if everything goes well and we get some luck too, then a top-five place is possible.

"It's going to be difficult, but if we get 100 per cent from the car, we can fight all of the other teams and come away with something good to build on."

Caterham and Marussia will also be in action, as both try to finish ahead of each other as they battle for 10th in the constructors' standings.

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